United Nations S/2000/1123

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 27 November 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter dated 27 November 2000 from Vojislav Kostunica, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, relative to the deteriorating situation in the Presevo Valley in the ground safety zone in the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Mladenovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 November 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with regret and grave concern that I have to warn you of the deteriorating situation in the Presevo valley in the ground security zone inside Serbia proper. Despite their commitments stemming from Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement, KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) have allowed the crossing of large groups of armed Albanian paramilitaries into the zone, which has forced lightly armed local police to leave their checkpoints. I would like to request you to do your utmost to prevent new incidents and eliminate the fear that has overwhelmed the population in the area.

Only if the United Nations civilian and security presences fulfil their mandate in its entirety, in line with both resolution 1244 and the Military-Technical Agreement, will the situation in Kosovo be stabilized and violence curbed so that it no longer spills over into the south of Serbia. There is no doubt that KFOR and UNMIK can do so if they wish.

It is more than obvious now that the process of democratization in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the victory of moderate forces in the municipal election in Kosovo, although its major flaw is the fact that the Serbs did not take part in it, is disturbing for extremists. This makes the security situation in the region even more difficult, and prevents the return of 226,000 non-Albanian, mostly Serb internally displaced persons. I cannot believe that the international community will allow the situation to develop in such an unfavourable direction, particularly given the fact that such an attitude would threaten the security of the region as a whole.

I hope that the Security Council will react promptly to address this situation. I can assure you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will strictly abide by its obligations stemming from the above-mentioned documents, but it also has the right and obligation to protect the security of its citizens. Our police and military will not enter the ground security zone in order to fight the terrorists, but viable conditions for the return of local police to the zone must be created as soon as possible, which is where KFOR's main responsibility lies.

I hope that I can rely on you in this matter.

(*Signed*) Vojislav **Kostunica**
President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia